

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1        1.     A method for mediating access to production options, comprising:  
2        acquiring a user's access request for a production device; and  
3        providing the user with an interface for the production device, the  
4     interface having user accessible controls for only those options for which the  
5     user has permission to access.

1        2.     The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises  
2     intercepting an access request directed to the production device.

1        3.     The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises  
2     redirecting the access request.

1        4.     The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of providing comprises:  
2        accessing data representing production options to which the user does  
3     and/or does not have permission to access;  
4        generating an interface according to the accessed data providing user  
5     accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to  
6     access; and  
7        presenting the user with the generated interface.

1        5.     The method of Claim 4, wherein the act of accessing comprises  
2     obtaining credentials for the user and locating a user record using the  
3     credentials, the user record containing the data representing production options  
4     to which the user does and/or does not have permission to access.

1        6.     The method of Claim 4 wherein the act of generating comprises  
2     generating the interface in the form of a web page and the act of presenting  
3     comprises presenting the generated web page to a web browser.

1        7.    The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of providing comprises:  
2            retrieving an interface for the production device, the interface having user  
3            accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device;  
4            modifying the interface to allow the user access to the controls for only  
5            the production options for which the user has permission to access; and  
6            presenting the user with the modified interface.

1        8.    The method of Claim 7, wherein the act of modifying comprises:  
2            accessing data representing production options to which the user does  
3            and/or does not have permission to access; and  
4            modifying the interface according to the accessed data providing user  
5            accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to  
6            access.

1        9.    The method of Claim 8, wherein the interface is a web page  
2            containing instructions for displaying controls for selecting production options  
3            and wherein the instructions are associated with one or more tags each tag  
4            identifying a particular production option, wherein the act of altering comprises  
5            identifying the tags for production options to which the user does not have  
6            access and altering the instructions associated with those tags.

1        10.   The method of Claim 8, wherein the act of accessing comprises  
2            obtaining credentials for the user and locating a record for the user using the  
3            credentials, the record containing the data representing production options to  
4            which the user does and/or does not have permission to access.

1        11.   The method of Claim 7, wherein the acts of retrieving and  
2            modifying are performed on a network device other than the production device.

1        12.   The method of Claim 7 wherein the act of retrieving comprises  
2            retrieving the interface in the form of a web page, and the act of presenting  
3            comprises presenting the modified web page to a web browser.

- 1        13. A method for mediating access to production options, comprising:
  - 2            acquiring a user's access request for a production device;
  - 3            accessing a record established for the user, the record containing data
  - 4            representing the production options for the production device to which the user
  - 5            does and/or does not have permission to access;
  - 6            generating a web page for the production device according to the user's
  - 7            record; and
  - 8            presenting the user with the generated interface.

14. A method for mediating access to production options, comprising:  
1 acquiring a user's access request for a production device;  
2 retrieving a web page for the production device, the web page having  
3 user accessible controls for selecting production options;  
4 accessing a record established for the user, the record containing data  
5 representing the production options for the production device to which the user  
6 does and/or does not have permission to access; and  
7 altering the web page according to the user's record; and  
8 presenting the user with the modified web page.

1        15. A computer program product for mediating access to production  
2 options, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer  
3 readable instructions thereon for:  
4            acquiring a user's access request for a production device; and  
5            providing the user with an interface for the production device, the  
6 interface having user accessible controls for only those options for which the  
7 user has permission to access.

1           16. The product of Claim 10, wherein the instructions for acquiring  
2 include instructions for intercepting an access request directed to the production  
3 device.

1        17. The product of Claim 10, wherein instructions for acquiring include  
2 instructions for redirecting the access request.

1        18. The product of Claim 15, wherein the instructions for providing  
2 comprise instructions for:  
3            accessing data representing production options to which the user does  
4 and/or does not have permission to access;  
5            generating an interface according to the accessed data, the interface  
6 having user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has  
7 permission to access; and  
8            presenting the user with the generated interface.

1        19. The product of Claim 18, wherein the instructions for accessing  
2 comprise instructions for obtaining credentials for the user and locating a user  
3 record using the credentials, the user record containing the data representing  
4 production options to which the user does and/or does not have permission to  
5 access.

1        20. The product of Claim 18, wherein the instructions for generating  
2 comprise instructions for generating the interface in the form of a web page and  
3 the instructions for presenting comprise instructions for presenting the generated  
4 web page to a web browser.

1        21. The product of Claim 15, wherein the instructions for providing  
2 comprise instructions for:  
3            retrieving an interface for the production device, the interface having user  
4 accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device;  
5            modifying the interface to allow the user access to the controls for  
6 selecting only production options for which the user has permission to access;  
7 and  
8            presenting the user with the modified interface.

1           22. The product of Claim 21, wherein the instructions for modifying  
2 comprise instructions for:  
3           accessing data representing the production options for the production  
4 device to which the user does and/or does not have permission to access; and  
5           altering the interface according to the accessed data, the altered interface  
6 having user accessible controls for only those production options for which the  
7 user has permission to access.

1           23. The product of Claim 22, wherein the interface is a web page  
2 containing instructions for displaying the controls for selecting each of the  
3 production options and wherein the instructions are associated with one or more  
4 tags each tag identifying a particular production option, wherein the instructions  
5 for altering include instructions for identifying the tags for production options to  
6 which the user does not have access and altering the instructions associated  
7 with those tags.

1           24. The product of Claim 22, wherein the instructions for accessing  
2 include instructions for obtaining credentials for the user and locating a user  
3 record using the credentials, the user record containing the data representing the  
4 production options for the production device to which the user does and/or does  
5 not have permission to access.

1           25. The product of Claim 21, wherein the instructions for retrieving  
2 and modifying comprise instructions for retrieving and modifying from a device  
3 other than the production device.

1           26. The product of Claim 21, wherein the instructions for retrieving  
2 comprises instructions for retrieving the interface in the form of a web page and  
3 the instructions for presenting comprises instructions for presenting the web  
4 page to a web browser.

1        27. A computer program product for mediating access to production  
2 devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer  
3 readable instructions thereon for:  
4            acquiring a user's access request for a production device;  
5            accessing data representing production options to which the user does  
6 and/or does not have permission to access;  
7            generating an interface according to the accessed data, the interface  
8 having user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has  
9 permission to access; and  
10          presenting the user with the generated interface.

1        28. A computer program product for mediating access to production  
2 devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer  
3 readable instructions thereon for:  
4            acquiring a user's access request for a production device;  
5            retrieving a web page for the production device; the interface having user  
6 accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device;  
7            accessing a record established for the user, the record containing data  
8 representing the production options for the production device to which the user  
9 does and/or does not have permission to access;  
10          altering the web page according to the accessed data, the altered  
11 interface having user accessible controls for only those production options for  
12 which the user has permission to access; and  
13          presenting the user with the modified web page.

1        29. In a computer network, a system for managing electronic  
2 document production, the system comprising:  
3            a production device;  
4            a client operable to identify a target document, issue a user's access  
5 request for a selected production device, and select production options;  
6            a permission service in electronic communication with the client and the  
7 production device, the permission service operable to acquire the access request

8 for the production device and provide the user with an interface for the  
9 production device, the interface having user accessible controls for only those  
10 options for which the user has permission to access.

1 30. The system of Claim 29, wherein an interface is a web page and  
2 the client is a web browser.

1 31. The system of Claim 29, further comprising one or more user  
2 records accessible by the permission service, each user record containing data  
3 representing the production options to which the user does and/or does not have  
4 permission to access for the production device.

1 32. The system of Claim 31, further comprising:  
2 a production server operable to generate an interface according to a  
3 user's record;  
4 wherein the permission service is operable to direct the production server  
5 to generate an interface according to the user's record and to direct to the client  
6 the generated interface.

1 33. The system of Claim 31, further comprising:  
2 a production server operable to serve an interface according to a user's  
3 record, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production  
4 options for the target document;  
5 wherein the permission service is operable to retrieve an interface from  
6 the production server for a selected production device, modify the interface  
7 according to the user's record, and direct to the client the modified interface.

1 34. The system of Claim 31, further comprising a permission engine  
2 operable to generate an interface having user accessible controls for managing  
3 user records.

1       35. The system of Claim 34, further comprising one or more device  
2 records, each device record containing data representing the production options  
3 offered by the particular production device, and wherein the permission engine is  
4 operable to parse the device records to generate the interface for managing the  
5 user records.

1       36. The system of Claim 35, further comprising:  
2       a device locator operable to detect new production devices; and  
3       an update service operable to create a device record for each newly  
4 detected production device.

1       37. In a computer network, a system for managing electronic  
2 document production, the system comprising:  
3       a production device;  
4       one or more user records, each user record containing data representing  
5 the production options to which the particular user does and/or does not have  
6 permission to access;  
7       a production server in communication with the production device and  
8 operable to generate an interface for that production device according to a user  
9 record;  
10       a client operable to identify a target document, issue a user's access  
11 request for the production device, and select production options;  
12       a permission service operable to access the user's record, direct the  
13 production server to generate an interface for the production device according to  
14 the user's record, and to direct to the client the generated interface;  
15       one or more device records, each device record containing data  
16 representing the production options offered by the particular production device;  
17       a permission engine operable to parse the device records and generate an  
18 web page for managing user records;  
19       a device locator operable to detect new production devices; and  
20       an update service operable to create a device record for each newly  
21 detected production device.

1           38. In a computer network, a system for managing electronic  
2 document production, the system comprising:  
3           a production device;  
4           one or more user records, each user record containing, for each  
5 production device, data representing the production options to which the  
6 particular user does and/or does not have permission to access;  
7           a production server in communication with the production device and  
8 operable to serve an interface for that production device, the interface having  
9 user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production  
10 device;  
11           a client operable to identify a target document, issue a user's access  
12 request for the production device, and select production options;  
13           a permission service operable to access the user's record, retrieve the  
14 interface from the production server, modify the interface according to the  
15 user's record, and to direct to the client the modified interface;  
16           one or more device records, each device record containing data  
17 representing the production options offered by the particular production device;  
18           a permission engine operable to parse the device records and generate an  
19 web page for managing user records;  
20           a device locator operable to detect new production devices; and  
21           an update service operable to create a device record for each newly  
22 detected production device.